22nd July 1953]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) The Collector, Cuddapah, has ordered the closure of 16 gruel centres which were opened *in the rural areas* of Cuddaph district. Three gruel centres opened *in the urban areas* are functioning.

" (b) The policy of the Government is to open special gruel centres for weavers' families only in big urban weaving centres."

Closure of gruel centres for weavers in Cuddapah.

* 903 Q.—SRI P. NARASIMHA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ordered the closing down of gruel centres in all the handloom weavers' centres which are in rural areas;

(b) whether the Government have ordered the closing down of the gruel centres in the following weavers' villages: Pullampet, Kothapet, Puttanavaripalle and Singareddipalle in Cuddapah district; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Yes.

" (c) In the opinion of the Government, it is necessary to run gruel centres for weavers' families only in big urban weaving centres. As the four centres referred to were in rural areas, they were ordered to be closed down."

Appointment of contractors for midday meals in the Labour Schools of North Arcot.

* 904 Q.—SRI D. DASARATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether midday meals contractors have been appointed for the Labour schools of North Arcot district for the year 1953–54; and

(b) if so, how many of them are Harijans and how many of them are Caste-Hindus?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) Yes, except for one school. In the one school the Headmaster is attending to this work as neither a Harijan nor a Caste-Hindu is available to take up this work.

" (b) Out of 150 contractors appointed, 143 are Harijans and 7 are Caste-Hindus."